

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 12 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pientka et al. (US 6,052,196). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goto et al (US 6,273,577). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, as stated above, claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdraw of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-7, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of Yokoyama (U.S. Pat. No. 5,134,549) and Suzawa (U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,481). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 5 is amended to depend from independent claim 1, and claims 9 and 10 are cancelled. Claims 5 -7 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto in view of Yokoyama and Suzawa and further in view of Kenmochi (US 5,128,842). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, inasmuch as claim 8 now depends from claim 1, claim 8 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication that claims 2 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As stated above, claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Further, claim 4 is rewritten in independent form by reciting the subject matter of claim 1.

Applicant also acknowledges with thanks the indication that claims 11 and 12 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 12, 2003

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryant E. Wade", written over a horizontal line.

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